

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A pipe coupling for connecting together the ends of two pipes, comprising a tubular casing (12), a tubular sealing sleeve (13) inside the casing, and tensioning means (25) for tightening the casing around the sealing sleeve, the arrangement being such that when the coupling is placed around the ends of two pipes to be connected and the tensioning means are tightened the casing presses the sealing sleeve against the pipe ends to form seals, the casing (12) comprising a strip of metal formed into a tube with a gap (14) extending longitudinally of the casing between the free ends of the strip, the tensioning means (25) interconnecting the free ends of the strip, characterised in that the free ends of the strip are bent outwardly to form radially projecting flanges (15) extending longitudinally of the casing on opposite sides of the gap (14), the two flanges being placed between two reinforcing members (20), the tensioning means passing through sets of aligned holes (30, 31, 32, 33) in the reinforcing members (20) and the flanges (15), the reinforcing member having an angled cross-section and extending substantially the length of the coupling.

2. (Original) A pipe coupling according to claim 1 in which the casing has circumferentially extending end flanges (17) projecting inwardly from the axial ends of the casing.

3. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ in which each reinforcing member has a web portion through which the holes (30) for the tensioning means pass, and a flange (21) running along the longitudinal edge of

the web portion that is nearer to the axis of the coupling, the flange bearing against the tubular portion of the casing.

4. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the reinforcing member has a channel-shaped cross section with flanges (21) running along both longitudinal edges of the web portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which frusto-conical gripping rings (50) are located within the casing at opposite ends of the casing, the inner edges (54) of the gripping rings being formed with teeth (52).

6. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which there are two sets of aligned holes (30, 31, 32, 33) and the tensioning means comprise two screw bolts (25) and nuts (34).

7. (Original) A pipe coupling according to claim 6 in which the nuts (34) are of a size that fits between the sides (21) of the U-shaped member (20) so as to prevent rotation of the nuts.

8. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which a backing ring (55) is provided inside the casing adjacent each gripping ring (50) between the gripping ring and the sealing sleeve (13) to prevent the sealing sleeve bulging between the teeth of the gripping ring.

9. (Currently Amended) A pipe coupling according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which an inner sleeve (45) is provided inside the sealing sleeve to prevent the sealing sleeve bulging inwardly between the pipe ends.